Kikuchi. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus for outputting video and audio signals to a home TV set. The apparatus comprises a man-machine interface, a semiconductor memory and an information processor. The man-machine interface converts into an electrical signal, one or plurality of urging force, movement in a space, sound information that is given by a human to the man-machine interface. The apparatus includes a semiconductor memory storing software for driving the information. The software is configured by an operating system, the information processor hardware driver, a man-machine interface driver, and an application software engine and the application software contents portion. The operating system administers at least a state control of all the tasks included in the present software, task scheduling, shared resource control between tasks, and interrupt control. The information processor hardware driver efficiently handles hardware resources in the information processor and configured by a driver program and driver data. The driver program includes one or more tasks and subroutines, and is utilized in a function according to the task execution or a subroutine call from the application software engine. The driver data is a set of data that is handled by the driver program. The man-machine interface driver efficiently delivers the electrical signal from the man-machine interface to the application software engine, and includes one or more tasks and subroutines, and is utilized according to a task execution or a subroutine call from the application software engine. The application software performs a process relied upon by an application kind among regular processes that is required by the application software contents portion and includes one or more tasks and subroutines. It is utilized in the task execution function or subroutine call from the application software contents program. The application software contents portion is configured by the application software contents program and application software contents data. The application software contents program is a program code for a particular process to achieve an objective of the present information processing apparatus and includes one or more tasks. The application software contents data is a set of data that is handled by the application software contents program or the application software engine. The information processor performs an operation process based on an electrical signal from the man-machine

interface and software stored in the semiconductor memory, and produces image information and sound information.

The essence of the claimed invention, as recited in claim 1, is an information processor being able to perform an operation process based on an electrical signal from the man-machine interface and software stored in the semiconductor memory, and produce image information and sound information. The claimed invention provides the advantages that are neither taught nor disclosed by the applied prior art. For instance, the claimed invention provides a system that allows the information processor hardware driver and the man-machine interface driver to be reduced in program size, thereby saving memory resources. Also, the application software engine, as recited in claim 1, enhances the efficiency of the information processing apparatus. Finally, an advantage that is non-obvious over the prior art is that the information process is able to perform an operation process based on electrical signals received from the man-machine interface and the software stored in the semiconductor memory, thereby producing image and sound information. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention, and therefore fails to provide the non-obvious advantages thereof.

Kikuchi is directed to a video game system that comprises a game machine assembly and a recording medium which stores a game program. However, it is respectfully submitted that Kikuchi is not a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). 35 U.S.C. §102(b) requires that the prior art be patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent in this country. Kikuchi was patented on May 8, 2001, which post-dates the Applicants priority date of December 20, 1998.

However, even if Kikuchi is considered a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Kikuchi does not teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 1-4, 7 and 8. As mentioned above, Kikuchi is directed to a video game system. Kikuchi discloses a game machine assembly that includes a CPU, a graphic data processor, a memory and a software incorporating video game technology. Kikuchi also discloses that when a recording medium is inserted into the video game system, the CPU instructs the recording medium driver to read the game program data from the recording medium based on the

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operating system stored in the ROM. The recording medium driver then reads the graphic image data, audio data, and game program data from the recording medium. The CPU then executes the video game based on the game program data stored n the main memory and commands entered into the controller by the user. The CPU controls the image processing, audio processing, and the internal processing operations based on commands entered by the user.

Kikuchi, however, does not teach or suggest an information processor, as recited in claim 1. In particular, Kikuchi does not teach or suggest an information processor that can handle hardware resources and which is configured by a driver program and driver data. In contrast, Kikuchi discloses that the CPU operates a recording medium to read a game program fro the recording medium. Also, in the present invention all the modules such as the operating system and the application software contents are all contained within a single chip semiconductor memory. In contrast, the operating system of Kikuchi is contained with in the ROM and the application programs are read-out by the CPU from the recording medium to the memory. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Kikuchi is not a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and even if Kikuchi is a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), it does not teach or suggest all the features in claims 1-4, 7 and 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Eilat (U.S. Patent No. 6,227,974 B1). The Examiner takes the position that the combination of Kikuchi and Eilat teach or suggest all the features of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that claims 5 and 6 recite subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied prior art. Since claims 5 and 6 depend upon independent claims 1 and 3, which recite patentable subject matter as discussed above, it is submitted that claims 5 and 6 also recite patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Accordingly, in view of the distinctions discussed above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance with Claims 1-8 contained therein.

Should the Examiner believe the application is not in condition for allowance, the

Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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